

MICHIGAN OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN LICENSING GUIDE

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1. HOW THE PROFESSION IS ORGANIZED IN MICHIGAN

OVERVIEW

This guide looks at things that you as a foreign-educated osteopathic physician must do to become eligible for licensing as a osteopathic physician in Michigan. At the same time, it includes some background and tips to give you an idea of the variety of opportunities available as you work to rebuild your career.

REGULATION OF OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS IN MICHIGAN

As an osteopathic physician, you must be licensed to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery in the State of Michigan. The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) regulates the profession. They give Michigan licenses to first time licensees and to osteopathic physicians who are eligible to practice in other states (by endorsement).

The COMLEX-USA Examination is the qualifying examination for a Michigan osteopathic physician license. However, this is the last step in a longer process of education and experience international osteopathic physicians must complete to practice in the state.

This guide assumes you are an international osteopathic physician who is beginning to build your career in the U.S. Therefore, the guide will include steps that come before the final state licensing process, including: education, exams, and completion of a 1 year postgraduate clinical training in an internship program.

2. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSING

This section explains important steps you must complete before you can be licensed to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery in Michigan. The steps to licensing are as follows:

- I. Complete the requirements for a degree in osteopathic medicine from osteopathic medical school accredited by the American Osteopathic Association's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (AOA COCA).
- II. Successfully complete 1 year postgraduate clinical training in an internship program approved by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA).

All schools of osteopathic medicine, hospitals and active postgraduate clinical training programs accredited by the American Osteopathic Association are approved by the board.

If you have been accepted into an internship or residency program in the state of Michigan, you must apply for an educational limited license (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Osteopathic_Educ_Lmt_457036_7.pdf) which allows you to practice under the supervision of a postgraduate educational training program in an approved training program under the supervision of an osteopathic physician.

Fees: \$170 total for both educational limited license and controlled substance license

The educational limited license is linked to the hospital where your training will be given and is not portable. You cannot legally practice osteopathic medicine and surgery outside of your training program until you apply for a full license. You can renew your educational limited license five times so you can practice up to 6 years with an educational limited license.

- III. Pass the COMLEX-USA Examination through the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners

The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) determines exam eligibility for the COMLEX-USA Examination www.nbome.org.

- IV. Apply for a Michigan Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery License

Once you have completed Steps I, II and III, you may apply for a Michigan Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery license (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Osteopathic_Full_486829_7.pdf)

Fees: \$150 for full license and additional \$85 for controlled substance license

3. TESTS

Michigan requires passing all COMLEX-USA Examinations (Level 1, Level 2-Cognitive Evaluation, Level 3 and Level 2-Performance Evaluation) for an Osteopathic physician to become licensed in Michigan. It does not require additional tests.

Your main point of contact for exams for the COMLEX-USA Examination will be the NBOME.

Level 1

COMLEX-USA Level 1 is a problem-based and symptom-based assessment, administered in a time-measured environment, which integrates the foundational and basic biomedical sciences of anatomy, behavioral science, biochemistry, microbiology, osteopathic principles, pathology, pharmacology, physiology and other areas of medical knowledge as they are relevant to solving clinical problems and promoting and maintaining health in providing osteopathic medical care to patients. The examination consists of two, four-hour computer-based test sessions during one day, containing a total of 400 test questions (items) related to diverse clinical presentations. Test questions are predominantly in the single best answer, multiple choice or extended matching item formats, with some novel test items involving audio-visual components designed to assess an expanded physician competency subset. Examples of test item types expected to be encountered in Level 1 can be found under [Practice Examinations](#), and this practice examination begins with a tutorial.

Passing of COMLEX-USA Level 1 indicates that the candidate has demonstrated competence in the foundational biomedical sciences and osteopathic principles as required to solve clinical problems in the supervised clinical practice setting and to prepare for lifelong learning.

Fees: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016 \$590
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 \$615
(Exam fee is determined by the registration date)

Level 2-Cognitive Evaluation

COMLEX-USA Level 2-Cognitive Evaluation (CE) is a problem-based and symptoms-based assessment, administered in a time-measured environment, which integrates the clinical disciplines of emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, osteopathic principles and neuromusculoskeletal medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, surgery, and other areas relevant to solving clinical problems and promoting and maintaining health in providing osteopathic medical care to patients. A similar problem-symptom-based approach is used in Level 2-CE as in Level 1. The examination consists of two, four-hour computer-based test sessions during one day, containing a total of 400 test questions (items) related to diverse clinical and patient presentations. Test questions are predominantly in the single best answer, multiple choice or extended matching item formats, with some novel test items involving audio-visual components designed to assess an expanded physician competency subset. Examples of test item types expected to be encountered in Level 2-CE can be found under [Practice Examinations](#), and this practice examination begins with a tutorial.

Passing COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE indicates that the candidate has demonstrated competence in the clinical and biomedical sciences and osteopathic principles as required to solve clinical problems and manage patient presentations in the supervised clinical practice setting and for entry into graduate medical education, as well as to prepare for lifelong learning.

Fees: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016 \$590
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 \$615
(Exam fee is determined by the registration date)

Level 3

COMLEX-USA Level 3 is a problem-based and symptom-based assessment, administered in a time-measured environment, which integrates the clinical disciplines of emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, osteopathic principles and neuromusculoskeletal medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, surgery, and other areas relevant to solving clinical problems and promoting and maintaining health in providing osteopathic medical care to patients. The examination consists of two, four-hour computer-based test sessions during one day, containing a total of 400 test questions (items) related to diverse clinical and patient presentations. Test questions are predominantly in the single best answer, multiple choice or extended matching item formats, with some novel test items involving audio-visual components designed to assess an expanded physician competency subset. These novel test items may include clinical decision-making and/or constructed-response types of test items. Examples of test item types expected to be encountered in Level 3 can be found

under [Practice Examinations](#), beginning with a tutorial, as well as specific practice cases for clinical decision making.

Beginning on September 1, 2015, the COMLEX-USA Level 3 Examination includes a section containing [Clinical Decision-Making \(CDM\)](#) cases. The NBOME's CDM cases assess the ability to make appropriate patient management decisions as an independently practicing osteopathic generalist physician. Candidates are encouraged to take the CDM practice exam by [clicking here](#).

Passing COMLEX-USA Level 3 indicates that the candidate has demonstrated competence in the clinical and biomedical sciences and osteopathic principles as required to solve clinical problems and manage patient presentations in the unsupervised osteopathic medical clinical practice setting and to prepare for lifelong learning.

Fees: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016 \$800
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 \$835
(Exam fee is determined by the registration date)

Level 2-Performance Evaluation

DESCRIPTION OF EXAMINATION

For case selection, Level 2-PE applies the Dimension I categories from the COMLEX-USA blueprint. The content (case selection) of Level 2-PE is crossed with the following axes:

Patient Presentation Axis

Standardized patients present in simulated ambulatory medical settings with problems and symptoms that are either acute, chronic, or provide opportunities for health promotion and disease prevention. In addition, the patients encountered are balanced to meet the examination specifications for patient gender and age as a reflection of national osteopathic physician practice patterns based on national survey data as well as expert judgment. The demographic and cultural profiles of patients are instrumental considerations in the case development process.

Osteopathic Medical Practice Axis

In any examination form, the following clinical skills are evaluated in the majority of the standardized patient encounters

Biomedical/Biomechanical Domain

- Osteopathic Principles and/or Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment

- History-taking and Physical Examination Skills
- Integrated Differential Diagnosis and Clinical Problem-Solving
- Documentation and Synthesis of Clinical Findings (SOAP note format)

Humanistic Domain

- Physician-Patient Communication, Interpersonal Skills, and Professionalism

Successful passage of the two distinctive domains is required to pass COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE.

Clinical Content Axis

Based on Dimension I of the COMLEX-USA blueprint, expert judgment, and national survey data of osteopathic physician practice patterns, candidates will encounter standardized patients presenting with the symptoms, problems, or complaints that are common to primary care osteopathic medical practice. These include:

- Patients with Neuromusculoskeletal Symptoms/Problems
- Patients with Respiratory Symptoms/Problems
- Patients with Gastrointestinal Symptoms/Problems
- Patients with Cardiovascular Symptoms/Problems
- Patients with Other Symptoms/Problems

The COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation (PE) is a one-day examination of clinical skills where each candidate encounters 12 standardized patients over the course of a seven-hour examination day. The examination is administered at NBOME's National Center for Clinical Skills Testing, 101 W. Elm St, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania (near Philadelphia).

Examination design, test specifications, test format and other details are available in the [Orientation Guide for COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE](#) on the NBOME's website. [A DVD Instructional Program on COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE](#) has been provided to the Office of the Dean at each of the colleges of osteopathic medicine, and is also available for viewing on NBOME's website.

The COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE (Performance Evaluation) augments the written COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE of osteopathic medical knowledge by providing an assessment of fundamental clinical skills. These clinical skills tested include: physician-patient communication, interpersonal skills and professionalism, medical history-taking and physical examination skills, osteopathic principles and osteopathic manipulative treatment, and documentation skills (including synthesis

of clinical findings, integrated differential diagnosis, and formulation of a diagnostic and treatment plan).

These patient-centered skills are evaluated in the context of clinical encounters with standardized patients each for a maximum 14-minute duration, and are required to be personally performed as appropriate in a timely, efficient, safe, and effective manner within the 14-minute time period, a limited time period that may be critical to a patient's health. After each encounter, the candidate is required to document the encounter using a SOAP note format. Candidates have an additional nine minutes for this task, and are required to use computer keyboard entry to complete the eSOAP note.

The COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE examination assesses the ability of the candidate to interact with patients who vary in age, gender, ethnicity and cultural backgrounds, and includes clinical presentations of a variety of patients that could be acute, chronic or opportunities for health promotion and disease prevention. This diversity of standardized patients is essential to the construct of the examination. Therefore, the 14-minute patient encounter time period and the standardized patient mix encountered during the examination cannot be altered, as this would fundamentally alter the assessment of the clinical skills being assessed by the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE examination.

The ability to communicate in the English language is required in each clinical encounter.

Fees: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016 \$1,290
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 \$1,295
(Exam fee is determined by the registration date)

4. TIME AND COSTS

Successful licensing as an Osteopathic physician in Michigan depends on many factors.

Just some of these include:

- The completeness of your educational and professional records
- Your performance on several tests
- Your ability to complete a 1 year postgraduate clinical training internship.

We provide two sample scenarios below to show some outcomes that immigrant professionals may experience when they seek a Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery license in Michigan. Please do not consider them as minimum or

maximum scenarios, only as two reference points out of many. Your experience will vary.

Two Hypothetical Scenarios for DO Licensing:

Step	More Efficient Scenario <i>Approximate Time and Cost</i>	Less Efficient Scenario <i>Approximate Time and Cost</i>
1.COMLEX-USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have been using a study course and preparing full-time for a year for the COMPLEX-USA exams. You take Level 1 and 2 CE, passing both in 9 months with good scores. You take Level 2 PE in Los Angeles 6 months later and have minimal travel and accommodations. 2 1/2 years + \$5,400 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problems with your documents and with proper translations take you 6 months to resolve and are expensive. You must pay others in your country to visit institutions for you. You study for your exams while working full-time. After 1 year you apply for the Level 1 exam. Your file is complete in 6 more months but you fail Level 1 on the first try. You take another year to prepare and pass, but your grade is not exceptional. You take Level 2 CE in Houston 1 year later and must pay for travel and accommodations. You pass on the first try. 4 1/2 years + \$7,150
2.Find Internship/Residency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It takes you just one year to research intern/residency programs and find an acceptable match, because you are willing to relocate and invest great effort in marketing your skills. You travel to several sites for interviews. 2 years + \$3,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have difficulties with the match and go through the application process several times You succeed after you become more flexible in acceptable residencies You travel to several sites for interviews each year you go through the match process. 4 years + \$7,000
3.Postgraduate Training Verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your Michigan internship/residency program is a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You do your application with very little help and have difficulties with some of the

Step	More Efficient Scenario <i>Approximate Time and Cost</i>	Less Efficient Scenario <i>Approximate Time and Cost</i>
	<p>big help to you as you prepare your application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It takes 1 month to prepare your application and 1 month to be approved. 2 months + \$600 	<p>paperwork. You turn in your fingerprints last and must wait 4 months for them to be processed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your application is complete after 5 months and it takes 2 months to approve it. 7 months + \$800
4. Michigan Physician License	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You pass Level 3 exam after your first year of internship/residency. You apply for your license as soon as you are eligible (after 1 year of internship/residency) and you are approved 6 months later. 1 year + \$800 Level 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You pass the USMLE step 3 exam after your first year of residency. You apply for your license as soon as you are eligible (after 2 years of residency) and you are approved 6 months later 1 year + \$800 Level 3
•	<p>More Efficient Total <i>About 5 1/2 years + \$10,980 (plus 1-5 years to finish your residency)</i></p>	<p>Less Efficient Total <i>About 10 years + \$16,390 (plus 1-5 years to finish your residency)</i></p>

5. OTHER CAREERS AND CREDENTIALS

LOWER-LEVEL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

You may want to consider whether taking a lower-level job in healthcare in the short-term can help you meet longer-term goals of licensing as a DO. Working in healthcare in a different capacity and with fewer responsibilities may offer you some advantages:

- Your employer may pay for some costs associated with licensing
- You can focus more energy on studying
- You will have a chance to adapt to the U.S. healthcare system and workplace culture in a lower-pressure environment
- An opportunity to network with U.S. healthcare professionals, which may prove more useful when gathering Letters of Recommendation for your application

You may immediately qualify for several hospital staff positions which require little or no additional training, such as Certified Nurse Assistant or Phlebotomy Technician. Some immigrant professionals find jobs as healthcare educators, or use language skills as medical interpreters.

You should be honest with your employer about your long-term plans and be sure that they have benefits such as paying for your tuition or schedule flexibility that will support your goals.

6. BEYOND LICENSING

MAINTAINING LICENSURE

Your Michigan Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery license must be renewed every three years through the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Professional Licensing. Your license will expire on December 31. You are responsible for renewing your license even if you do not receive a notice from the Department. You must renew online. The cost to renew on time is \$285 for the osteopathic medicine and surgery license and \$225 for the controlled substance license. You will have sixty days after the expiration date in which you may continue to practice without a lapse in your license as long as you renew within that sixty-day grace period. If you do not renew during that grace period, the expiration date of your license will revert to December 31. If you continue to practice after your license has expired (lapsed), you could have disciplinary action taken against you. If your license does expire, you will be required to apply for relicensure to reactivate your license.

Every time you renew your license you must state that you have met a 150-hour Continuing Medical Education requirement or CME. You need to keep the information on file in case you are audited. There are many opportunities to earn these hours, but special rules apply. You should check the Department website for details, or consider joining a professional association that offers CME opportunities to members.

LICENSING MOBILITY (ENDORSEMENT)

The State of Michigan grants licensing to DOs either by examination (the process described in this topic) or by endorsement. A osteopathic physician licensed in another state, who wants to practice in Michigan, must independently meet all Michigan requirements for licensing. If you become licensed in Michigan and want to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery in another state, you will need to research the legal requirements for that state.

7. IMPORTANT LINKS

MICHIGAN LICENSING

- The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs website includes general licensing information regarding practicing medicine in Michigan www.michigan.gov/healthlicense
- The Public Health Code that regulates licensing for all health professions can be read at [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(zdzgdxnz3wbaxqcasxud5nzw\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-368-1978-15](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(zdzgdxnz3wbaxqcasxud5nzw))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-368-1978-15)
- The Public Health Code that regulates controlled substances can be read at: <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-368-1978-7>
- The administrative rules governing the practice of osteopathic medicine and surgery in Michigan can be located at: http://w3.lara.state.mi.us/orr/Files/AdminCode/1317_2014-001LR_AdminCode.pdf
- Once you are licensed, you will need to attend 150 hours of [Continuing Medical Education](#) every three years as one requirement to maintain your license

Department contact information: Bureau of Professional Licensing, PO Box 30670, Lansing, Michigan 48909; Telephone Number 517-241-0650; Fax Number 517-335-2044; email bplhelp@michigan.gov

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS (NBOME)

- Through the [NBOME](#), register for the COMLEX-USA examinations [here](#).
- The Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS) is an electronic portfolio of your education and residency credentials. It is a way to maintain proof of your most important credentials over time without having to return for original documentation. You may sign up for its Physician Information Profile [here](#). FCVS Help number: 817-868-5000 OR 888-ASK-FCVS (this number can be reached only when calling from within the US), or send an email to fcvs@fsmb.org.

TEST PREPARATION

- The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) offers [practice materials](#) for all Level 1, Level 2-CE and Level 3 exams.

- **COMLEX-USA Practice Examinations**

[PRACTICE EXAM: LEVEL 1](#)

[PRACTICE EXAM: LEVEL 2](#)

[PRACTICE EXAM: LEVEL 3](#)

[Clinical Decision Making Cases](#)

- [Descriptions and content outlines of all COMLEX-USA exams](#)